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This study, based on information collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in its Current Population Survey, shows the number of children 3 to 5 years old in the United States and the extent of their enrollment in public and nonpublic preprimary programs. In 1968 the gap continued to close between white and nonwhite children enrolled in preprimary programs, reflecting the influence of State and Federal preschool projects in poorer areas. As age increased, enrollment rates increased, but the proportion enrolled in private schools decreased. As family income rose, enrollment increased, with the highest percentage in the "$10,000 and over" group. A higher percentage of nonwhite children than white children from the lower income groups was enrolled, and for all regions of the country, nonwhite enrollment was higher. Enrollment rates for nonwhites were higher than for whites in white-collar and manual service occupations. Children in farm families had the lowest enrollment rates, while children in white-collar families had the highest enrollment. The enrollment rate of nonmetropolitan residents continued to be lower than that of central city or suburban residents. The percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs continued to increase, from 25.5 percent in October 1964 to 33.0 percent in October 1968. (DR)

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elementary and secondary education

Preprimary Enrollment of Children Under Six

OCTOBER 1968

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H I G H L I G H T S

Summary of characteristics of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristics	Number in population	Enrollment in programs					
		Total preprimary		Prekinder-garten		Kindergarten	
		Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent
Total, 3-5 years old. . .	11,905	3,928	33.0	816	6.9	3,112	26.1
White	9,968	3,310	33.2	664	6.7	2,646	26.5
Nonwhite.	1,937	618	31.9	152	7.8	466	24.1
Family income[1/]							
Under $3,000.	1,150	269	23.4	59	5.1	210	18.3
$3,000 to $4,999. . . .	1,858	480	25.8	106	5.7	373	20.1
$5,000 to $7,499. . . .	2,938	835	28.4	129	4.4	707	24.1
$7,500 to $9,999. . . .	2,499	860	34.4	155	6.2	704	28.2
$10,000 and over. . . .	2,767	1,261	45.6	326	11.8	936	33.8
Occupation of family head[2/]							
White-collar.	4,123	1,700	41.2	460	11.2	1,241	30.1
Manual or service . . .	5,866	1,682	28.7	242	4.1	1,439	24.5
Farm.	467	101	21.6	8	1.7	92	19.7
Unemployed or not in labor force	1,153	345	29.9	76	6.6	269	23.3
Residence:							
Metropolitan, central .	3,392	1,246	36.7	263	7.8	982	29.0
Metropolitan, other . .	4,242	1,562	36.8	330	7.8	1,233	29.1
Nonmetropolitan	4,266	1,120	26.3	223	5.2	897	21.0
Region:							
Northeast	[3/]	[3/]	36.0	[3/]	6.6	[3/]	29.3
North Central	[3/]	[3/]	35.5	[3/]	5.8	[3/]	29.6
South	[3/]	[3/]	24.3	[3/]	6.3	[3/]	18.0
West	[3/]	[3/]	40.7	[3/]	9.9	[3/]	30.8

1/ Excludes children with family income not reported

2/ Excludes children with occupation of household head not reported.

3/ No figures shown, since regional data are not controlled by independent population estimates.

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

OE-20079-68

PREPRIMARY ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER SIX: OCTOBER 1968

by

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F O R E W O R D

The Nation today is faced with the enormous problem of trying to ameliorate the unfortunate effects of poverty which cause early childhood experiences detrimental to success in school. Many children who enter the primary school grades are psychologically, socially, and intellectually disadvantaged. As a result, they often meet continuous failure and generally drop out of school at the earliest opportunity.

Because of the recent interest in the educationally disadvantaged, the Office of Education is issuing this report, the fifth in an annual series, showing the number of children 3 to 5 years of age and their enrollment rates by age, as related to family income, occupation of family head, and residence.

It is hoped that those persons interested in basic data on this subject -- the importance and value of preprimary education -- will find this report of value.

Carol J. Hobson
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PREPRIMARY ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER SIX

October 1968

INTRODUCTION

Since the opening of the first kindergarten in 1873 in St. Louis, Mo., enrollments of children in early childhood education programs have risen steadily with but a few interruptions as a result of sharp drops in birthrates and depressed economic conditions. The increase in prekindergarten and kindergarten enrollment has been particularly sharp over the past 4 years. Educational research findings have stressed the importance of early age school attendance, particularly for children from socio-economically disadvantaged families. Such projects as Head Start, Follow Through, and other federally assisted programs, as well as an increasing number of State and local programs aimed at the 3- to 5-year-old age group, emerged as a result of these recent studies.

In an attempt to measure changes from year to year, the Office of Education annually publishes preprimary-age population and enrollment data, based on a sample survey[1/]. This is the fifth in a series of reports showing the number of children 3 to 5 years old in the United States[2/] and the extent to which they are enrolled in organized public or nonpublic preprimary programs.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

The data here presented include all of the noninstitutional children 3, 4, and 5 years old; these are referred to as "the population" in this report, which is chiefly concerned with the number and percent of children in this age group who are enrolled in preprimary classes in public and nonpublic schools. The enrollment data herein do not include the 444,000 5-year-olds enrolled in primary grades. Nor do the preprimary data include 156,000 6-year-olds enrolled in prekindergarten and kindergarten classes. As in the preceding years, the data used in this study are based on information collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in its Current Population Survey. The October 1968 survey covered a sample of 50,000 households distributed over 449 areas, comprising 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

1/ Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

2/ Throughout this publication, the term "United States" includes the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States by age, sex, and color. Since the figures presented in this report are based on sample data, they may differ from figures that might have been obtained from a complete census. The reader is cautioned that sampling variation may be relatively large where the numbers shown are small.

Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Hence, detail may not add to totals. All percentages are based on rounded absolute numbers.

ANALYSIS OF 1968 DATA

The population of children 3 to 5 years old declined by an estimated 0.6 million from 12.5 million in October 1965 to 11.9 million in October 1968. Of this population in 1968, an estimated 3.8 million children were 3 years old, 4.0 million were 4 years old, and 4.1 million were 5 years old.

In contrast to the declining population, the number and percent of children enrolled in preprimary programs continued to increase. An estimated 3.9 million or 33 percent of the 3- to 5-year-old population were enrolled in 1968; this compares with 3.4 million, or 27.1 percent in October 1965. As might be expected, a far higher percentage of the 5-year-olds (66 percent) were in school than the 4-year-olds (22.8 percent) or the 3-year-olds (8.3 percent). See table 1.

The gap between white and nonwhite children enrolled continues to close. In October 1968, 33.2 percent of the white children and 31.9 percent of the nonwhite children were enrolled in preprimary programs, as opposed to 27.9 percent and 23.3 percent for whites and nonwhites, respectively, in October 1965. Since a greater proportion of nonwhites than whites tend to be economically disadvantaged, the various State and Federal programs designed to assist this group tend to benefit a greater proportion of nonwhites than whites.

TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED

Enrollment data by level (prekindergarten and kindergarten) and control (public and nonpublic) are presented in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2 shows that of the 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in preprimary programs, an estimated 20.8 percent are in prekindergarten and 79.2 percent are in kindergarten. Several factors explain this large difference in enrollment rates. Prekindergarten programs are generally not offered by public schools. Entrance age requirements for kindergarten

in most States preclude 3-year-old admission and eliminate most 4-year-olds. (Note that about 93.4 percent of the 3-year-olds and 48.5 percent of the 4-year-olds enrolled are in prekindergarten, while 97.1 percent of the 5-year-olds enrolled are in kindergarten.)

These data are presented in a different context in table 3. Only 6.9 percent of the 3- to 5-year-olds are enrolled in prekindergarten programs, while 26.1 percent are enrolled in kindergarten. More than twice as many children are enrolled in nonpublic as in public prekindergarten programs. In contrast almost 5 times as many children are in public as in nonpublic kindergartens.

Thus, these tables show that as age increases, enrollment rates also increase, but the proportion of enrollees in private schools decreases.

FAMILY INCOME

Enrollment data by family income groups are shown in table 4. As might be expected, the higher the income level, the higher the percentage of the population enrolled. Looking at the total population of 3- to 5-year-olds, the percentage of children enrolled rises steadily from 23.4 for the "Under $3,000" group to 45.6 for the "$10,000 and over" group.

The percentage of enrollment of 5-year-olds also increases as family income increases (from 43.8 percent for "Under $3,000" to 77.7 percent for "$10,000 and over"). Since most of the 5-year-olds are generally enrolled in free kindergartens, the income factor may not be very significant. However, a study by the Office of Economic Opportunity entitled "A Survey of Available Private and Public Kindergarten Services, Fall 1968," and other studies conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census have shown a high relationship between income and desire for early education. It should be noted the percentages of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled remain fairly constant through the lower income levels and jump substantially at the "$10,000 and over" group. This phenomenon is probably explained by the lack of free preprimary programs for 3- and 4-year-olds coupled with the relatively high tuitions charged by private schools.

Generally speaking, a higher percentage of nonwhite children than white children from the lower income groups are enrolled in prekindergarten programs.

OCCUPATION OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Preprimary school attendance of 3- to 5-year-olds by the occupation of the head of the household is shown in table 5. Occupations are assigned to four general categories: white-collar workers, manual or service workers, persons employed on farms, and unemployed persons or those not

in the labor force. No data are shown for children in families where the occupation of the household head was not reported.

Preprimary enrollment rates are substantially higher in each age and color group when children come from families whose household head is a white-collar worker. For this occupation group, 41.2 percent of the 3- to 5-year-olds were enrolled in preprimary programs. Children from farm families showed the lowest enrollment rate with only 21.6 percent of the 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled. Children from families whose household head was employed as a manual/service worker or was unemployed had about an equal enrollment rate, 28.7 percent and 29.9 percent, respectively.

The large difference in enrollment rates between white-collar and farm families is largely explained by a difference in opportunity. White-collar workers are usually found in urban areas where preprimary programs are more available than in rural areas. The household head who is a manual/service worker or who is unemployed also probably lives in an urban area, which again might explain the higher enrollment rate for these groups than for farm families.

Of the 3- to 5-year-old population, table 5 shows higher enrollment rates for nonwhites than for whites in white-collar and manual service families. Whites show higher enrollment rates than nonwhites in farm families. In families where the household head is unemployed, the enrollment rates are almost equal.

METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE

The distribution of enrollment between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan residence in table 6 is based on the 1960 U.S. Bureau of the Budget definition of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA).3/ There is a further breakdown within SMSA's between central cities (urban) and fringe areas surrounding central cities (suburban). Non-SMSA areas may generally be considered as rural, although a number of smaller cities are included in the category.

For each age group, the highest enrollment percentages are recorded in central cities or suburban areas of SMSA's, with rural areas having the lowest proportion of their children enrolled in kindergarten and prekindergarten classes. These findings may reasonably be related to the difference in availability of organized preprimary school programs in urban and rural areas.

In the central cities, 9.1 percent (101,000) of the 3-year-olds, 27.8 percent (303,000) of the 4-year-olds, and 71.0 percent (842,000) of

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3/ See Definitions and Explanations on p. 16.

the 5-year-olds attended preprimary classes. The comparable percentages for suburban areas were similar. In areas outside SMSA's, however, only 5.9, 15.8, and 56.1 percent, respectively, of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds were enrolled in preprimary programs.

REGION

For purposes of this study, the United States is divided into four regions.[4/] Tables 7 and 8 show population and enrollment data separately for the Northeast, North Central, South, and West regions. It should be noted that absolute numbers (table 7) for the regional distribution of the 3- to 5-year-old population and enrollment are not shown, since regional data are not controlled by independent population estimates. Only percentages are shown.

Enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds at the preprimary level (table 8) was highest in the West (12.8 and 28.5 percent, respectively) and lowest in the North Central region (5.8 and 17.8 percent, respectively). In the South, only 41.4 percent of the 5-year-olds were enrolled in preprimary classes, in contrast to 71.5, 80.1, and 80.5 percent in the other three regions of the country. This probably reflects the fact that until recently preprimary classes were not part of the regular public school system in many of the Southeastern States.

Analysis of preprimary-level enrollment by age and color (table 8) shows the nonwhite enrollment rate to have been consistently higher than the white attendance rate for 3- and 4-year-olds in all regions. Among 5-year-olds, the white enrollment rate exceeded that for nonwhite pupils in all four areas.

SUMMARY

The highlights table indicates that the 3- to 5-year-olds most likely to be enrolled in preprimary educational programs in 1968 were those in families with incomes of $10,000 or more, in households with white-collar heads, residing in urban areas, and located in the West. Federal and State financing of preschool projects in poorer areas had undoubtedly enhanced the educational opportunities of urban poor preschool-age youngsters. Consequently, children of the urban unemployed or manual workers are more likely to be receiving early childhood schooling than children in farm areas, and the difference is more pronounced in nonwhite families. The percentage of Southern children receiving preprimary schooling rose from 18.7 percent in the October 1966 survey to 23.3 percent in 1967 and 24.3 percent in 1968.

4/ For a list of States comprising the four regions see page 17.

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The preprimary enrollment trends which persist throughout this survey may be summarized as follows:

1. The percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in preprimary programs continued to increase to 33.0 percent in October 1968, compared to 25.5 percent in October 1964.

2. Enrollment in preprimary programs increases as family income level increases. Only 23.4 percent of the 3- to 5-year-olds in families with annual incomes of less than $3,000 were enrolled, while 45.6 percent of the children in families with annual incomes of $10,000 and over were in school. For the lower income group, the percentage of children enrolled increased by 8.3 percentage points from 15.1 percent enrolled in 1964 to 23.4 percent in October 1968. This compares to a 3.1 percentage point difference between the upper income group between 1964 and 1968.

3. Enrollment of children in white-collar families continues to be substantially greater, 41.2 percent, than for any other occupational category. Children in farm families have the lowest enrollment rate, 21.6 percent, while children in manual or service families, and those in families unemployed or not in the labor force have enrollment rates of 28.7 percent and 29.9 percent respectively. All categories show approximately equal increases over October 1964 data.

4. The enrollment rate of nonmetropolitan residents, 26.3 percent, continues to be significantly lower than that of central city residents, 36.7 percent, or suburban residents, 36.8 percent. Again, all categories show approximately equal increases over October 1964 data.

Table 1.--Preprimary enrollment and population of children 3 to 5 years old, by sex, age, and color: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Age and color	Both sexes			Boys			Girls		
	Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total 3-5 years. . . .	11,905	3,928	33.0	6,076	2,004	33.0	5,829	1,925	33.0
White.	9,968	3,310	33.2	5,100	1,703	33.4	4,868	1,609	33.0
Nonwhite	1,937	618	31.9	976	301	30.9	961	316	33.0
3 years.	3,811	317	8.3	1,942	154	7.9	1,869	163	8.7
White.	3,177	256	8.1	1,623	123	7.6	1,554	132	8.5
Nonwhite	634	61	9.6	319	31	9.7	315	31	9.8
4 years.	4,000	911	22.8	2,043	458	22.4	1,957	453	23.1
White.	3,351	722	21.5	1,716	369	21.5	1,635	353	21.6
Nonwhite	649	189	29.1	327	89	27.2	322	100	31.1
5 years.	4,095	2,701	66.0	2,091	1,392	66.6	2,004	1,310	65.4
White.	3,441	2,333	67.8	1,761	1,210	68.7	1,680	1,124	66.9
Nonwhite	654	368	56.3	330	182	55.2	324	186	57.4

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 2.--Preprimary enrollment and population of children 3 to 5 years old, by age, enrollment status, level, and control: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Enrollment status, level, and control	Total 3-5 years	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	5-year-olds
Total number-				
In population.	11,905	3,811	4,000	4,095
Enrolled in programs	3,928	317	911	2,701
Percent of population-				
Enrolled in programs	33.0	8.3	22.8	66.0
Not enrolled in programs	67.0	91.7	77.2	34.0
Percent of enrollment in-				
Prekindergarten.	20.8	93.4	48.5	2.9
Public	6.7	24.9	15.1	1.7
Nonpublic.	14.1	68.5	33.4	1.2
Kindergarten	79.2	6.6	51.5	97.1
Public	65.4	4.1	36.9	82.2
Nonpublic.	13.8	2.8	14.6	14.9

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 3.--Preprimary enrollment of children 3 to 5 years old, by level, control, age, and color: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands. Percents are based on total population in groups shown]

Age and color	Enrolled in prekindergarten						Enrolled in kindergarten					
	Total		Public		Nonpublic		Total		Public		Nonpublic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, 3-5 years. . .	816	6.9	262	2.2	554	4.7	3,112	26.1	2,569	21.6	544	4.6
White	664	6.7	163	1.6	501	5.0	2,646	26.5	2,157	21.6	489	4.9
Nonwhite.	152	7.8	99	5.1	53	2.7	466	24.1	412	21.3	55	2.8
3 years	296	7.8	79	2.1	217	5.7	21	.6	13	.3	9	.2
White	240	7.6	48	1.5	192	6.0	16	.5	10	.3	6	.2
Nonwhite.	56	8.8	31	4.9	25	3.9	5	.8	3	.5	3	.5
4 years	442	11.1	138	3.5	304	7.6	469	11.7	336	8.4	133	3.3
White	364	10.9	85	2.5	278	8.3	359	10.7	248	7.4	111	3.3
Nonwhite.	78	12.0	53	8.2	26	4.0	110	16.9	88	13.6	22	3.4
5 years	78	2.0	45	1.1	33	.8	2,623	64.1	2,220	54.2	402	9.8
White	60	1.7	30	.9	31	.9	2,273	66.1	1,899	55.2	372	10.9
Nonwhite.	18	2.8	15	2.3	2	.3	350	53.5	321	49.1	30	4.6

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 4.--Preprimary enrollment and population of children 3 to 5 years old, by family income, age, and color: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Age and color	Under $3,000			$3,000 to $4,999			$5,000 to $7,499			$7,500 to $9,999			$10,000 and over		
	Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total, 3-5 years. . .	1,150	269	23.4	1,858	480	25.8	2,938	835	28.4	2,499	860	34.4	2,767	1,261	45.6
White	577	123	21.3	1,321	304	23.0	2,567	717	27.9	2,321	789	34.0	2,596	1,186	45.7
Nonwhite.	573	146	25.5	537	176	32.8	371	118	31.8	178	71	39.9	171	75	43.9
3 years	378	19	5.1	627	47	7.5	945	50	5.3	821	50	6.1	800	137	17.1
White	190	5	2.6	467	24	5.1	821	41	5.0	744	43	5.8	755	130	17.2
Nonwhite.	188	14	7.4	160	23	14.4	124	9	7.3	77	7	9.1	45	7	15.6
4 years	375	76	20.2	624	104	16.7	1,016	182	17.9	817	173	21.2	921	311	33.8
White	184	26	14.1	438	59	13.5	888	145	16.3	775	154	19.9	853	282	33.1
Nonwhite.	191	50	26.2	186	45	24.2	128	37	28.9	42	19	45.2	68	29	42.6
5 years	397	174	43.8	608	329	54.1	976	604	61.9	861	637	74.0	1,046	813	77.7
White	203	92	45.3	415	221	53.3	857	533	62.2	802	591	73.7	988	774	78.3
Nonwhite.	194	82	42.3	193	108	56.0	119	71	59.7	59	46	78.0	58	39	67.2

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 5.--Preprimary enrollment and population of children 3 to 5 years old, by occupation of head of household, age, and color: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Age and color	White collar			Manual/service			Farm			Unemployed or not in labor force		
	Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total, 3-5 years. .	4,123	1,700	41.2	5,866	1,682	28.7	467	101	21.6	1,153	345	29.9
White	3,867	1,577	40.8	4,788	1,347	28.1	380	92	24.2	690	208	30.1
Nonwhite. . . .	256	123	48.0	1,078	335	31.1	87	9	10.3	463	137	29.6
3 years	1,266	180	14.2	1,937	91	4.7	133	1	.8	356	34	9.6
White	1,199	171	14.3	1,583	54	3.4	108	1	.9	197	19	9.6
Nonwhite. . . .	67	9	13.4	354	37	10.5	25	0	.0	159	15	9.4
4 years	1,421	454	31.9	1,960	341	17.4	157	8	5.1	370	82	22.2
White	1,327	411	31.0	1,599	242	15.1	121	6	5.0	225	41	18.2
Nonwhite. . . .	94	43	45.7	361	99	27.4	36	2	5.6	145	41	28.3
5 years	1,436	1,066	74.2	1,970	1,250	63.5	177	91	51.4	427	229	53.6
White	1,342	996	74.2	1,607	1,051	65.4	151	84	55.6	268	148	55.2
Nonwhite. . . .	94	70	74.5	363	199	54.8	26	7	26.9	159	81	50.9

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 6.--Preprimary enrollment and population of children 3 to 5 years old, by place of residence, age, and color: United States, October 1968

[Numbers in thousands]

Age and color	Metropolitan-Central			Metropolitan-Other			Non-Metropolitan		
	Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled		Number in population	Enrolled	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total, 3-5 years. . . .	3,392	1,246	36.7	4,242	1,562	36.8	4,266	1,120	26.3
White	2,356	842	35.7	3,954	1,462	37.0	3,655	1,006	27.5
Nonwhite.	1,036	404	39.0	288	100	34.7	611	114	18.7
3 years	1,116	101	9.1	1,306	133	10.2	1,387	82	5.9
White	770	60	7.8	1,214	122	10.0	1,192	72	6.0
Nonwhite.	346	41	11.8	92	11	12.0	195	10	5.1
4 years	1,091	303	27.8	1,477	383	25.9	1,428	225	15.8
White	750	180	24.0	1,383	354	25.6	1,215	189	15.6
Nonwhite.	341	123	36.1	94	29	30.9	213	36	16.9
5 years	1,186	842	71.0	1,460	1,047	71.7	1,450	813	56.1
White	837	602	71.9	1,358	987	72.7	1,248	745	59.7
Nonwhite.	349	240	68.8	102	60	58.8	202	68	33.7

Note.--Excluded from data in this table are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Table 7.--Geographic distribution of the population of children 3 to 5 years old, by region, age, and color: United States, October 1968

Age and color	Percent by region			
	Northeast	North Central	South	West
Total, 3-5 years.	23.6	28.2	31.1	17.1
White	24.4	30.1	27.5	18.0
Nonwhite.	19.7	18.5	49.5	12.3
3 years	24.3	28.3	30.2	17.2
White	24.8	30.3	26.7	18.0
Nonwhite.	21.6	18.0	47.6	12.9
4 years	22.9	28.2	31.4	17.5
White	24.0	30.0	27.6	18.4
Nonwhite.	17.4	18.8	51.0	12.8
5 years	23.7	28.2	31.6	16.5
White	24.4	29.9	28.1	17.6
Nonwhite.	20.2	20.0	49.7	11.2

Table 8.--Percent of children 3 to 5 years old enrolled in preprimary programs, by region, age, and color: United States, October 1968

Age and color	Percent by region				
	Total U.S.	Northeast	North Central	South	West
3-5 years	33.0	36.0	35.5	24.3	40.7
White	33.2	36.1	35.4	23.8	40.2
Nonwhite.	31.9	35.1	36.5	25.8	44.5
3 years	8.3	7.8	5.8	8.5	12.8
White	8.1	7.5	5.7	7.9	12.7
Nonwhite.	9.6	9.5	6.1	10.3	13.4
4 years	22.8	26.7	17.8	21.1	28.5
White	21.5	26.0	16.9	19.7	26.1
Nonwhite.	29.1	31.9	25.4	25.1	45.8
5 years	66.0	71.5	80.5	41.4	80.1
White	67.8	72.6	81.2	41.7	80.3
Nonwhite.	56.3	64.4	75.0	40.6	78.1

Note.--Excluded from data in the above tables are 444,000 5-year-olds in programs above the kindergarten level and 156,000 6-year-olds in preprimary programs.

Appendixes

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

LIST OF STATES BY REGION

APPENDIXES

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

POPULATION COVERAGE

The data presented in this report relate to the noninstitutional population 3 to 5 years old in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

AGE

The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

COLOR

The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indian Americans, Japanese, Chinese, and other non-Caucasians.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

The household head is the person designated as such by the respondent for the household, regardless of whether he is or is not related to other household members by blood, marriage, or adoption.

PRIMARY

The primary level is a distinct organization within an elementary school for pupils in the primary grades, usually equivalent to grade 1 through grade 3.

PREPRIMARY

The preprimary level is intended only for beginning groups of children during the year or years preceding the primary level. In this report, preprimary level is defined as inclusive of prekindergarten and kindergarten programs.

PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL

In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Nonpublic schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control.

PREPRIMARY PROGRAM

A preprimary program is defined as a set of organized educational experiences intended for children attending prekindergarten and kindergarten classes. Such a program may be offered by a public or nonpublic school or by some other agency.

METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE

The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contain at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county or counties containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1960 Census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

LIST OF STATES BY REGION

NORTHEAST

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana

SOUTH (con.)

Maryland
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

NORTH CENTRAL

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska

NORTH CENTRAL (con.)

North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

WEST

Arizona
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming
Alaska
Hawaii

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RELATED NCES PUBLICATIONS

OE-20113	Preprimary Enrollment of Children Under Six: October, 1967
OE-20007-68	Fall 1968 Statistics of Public Schools
OE-20112-67	Statistics of Local Public School Systems, 1967
OE-20005-67	Education Directory, 1968-69, Part 2, Public School Systems